

**Minutes of the Boulevard Planning Group**  
**Meeting held on June 5, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. Members present: Marilyn Polen, Donna Tisdale, Bill Parsons (arrived at 7:20), Chris Noland. Members absent: Pat Stuart (excused), Darlene Koczka (excused) and Jeffrey McKernan (excused). No action was taken on approval of minutes due to the lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Correspondence was reviewed, including a local flyer, dated May 12, 2008, soliciting opposition to the proposed General Plan Update. It was noted that the flyer was distributed by unidentified sources and contained inaccurate information on several issues.

**5A. SDG&E PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED ELECTRIC SUBSTATION REQUIRED FOR WIND GENERATION:** Don Parent, Public Affairs for East County, and Darren Weim, Project Manager, stated that the Public Utilities Commission requires SDG&E to communicate and work with developers to connect their projects to the grid if the project is approved by California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO). Several projects are locking up land and the resources to move forward. These developers expect to get signed contracts to sell new energy. SDG&E needs to backup our area with a new circuit which requires expanding the Boulevard Substation and a tap into the Southwest Powerlink, with the proposed ECO Substation near Jade Mountain east of Jacumba. 90% of the wind projects are currently located in the Sierra Juarez and Jacumba with pockets in Crestwood and McCain Valley. 5 of 7 projects proposed to connect with the Jacumba Substation are in Mexico. SDG&E has done Jacumba site analysis already. Several alternate sites being reviewed in Tierra Del Sol and Jewel Valley areas, as well as Aspen's Jacumba site in the DEIS/EIR for Sunrise Powerlink, which was rejected.

There are two requests for interconnections (unidentified) to tap into the Boulevard Substation. The energy project proponents are responsible for running new lines from their projects to the Boulevard substation. SDG&E needs to expand the Boulevard Substation from 1/4 acre to 3/4 acres and run a new 14-mile transmission line south, looping around the airstrip at Empire Ranch, down to within 150 feet of the Southwest Powerlink and then back east to the ECO Substation. Substation expansion will move onto private property to the west. The 69 kV feed line in Boulevard had 40 outages in the last year and a new circuit would reduce those types of outages. SDG&E will use 100 foot high steel poles. They are looking at 4 bays for now and will most likely demolish the existing substation and replace with new facility moving it northwest away from the property boundary so there will be less noise for neighbors. Noise reduction walls are not viable due to equipment overheating. When concerns were expressed about being placed on emergency generators like during the Kumeyaay Wind connection, it was stated that the switch over to new facility may cause brief outage. They plan to file permit applications in July / August and need to do environmental survey. SDG&E working on proponents environmental assessment. Both CEQA and NEPA apply.

A member of the public commented that the Sunrise Powerlink was being pitched to accommodate renewable energy and wanted to know when the public will know if fossil fuel powered energy is run on it instead. SDG&E said that CAISO decides what power runs on what lines—not SDG&E. They need to show potential for expansion. A property owner impacted by proposed new transmission line in Jewel Valley expressed concerns with project impacts and the installation of two poles. He was encouraged to work directly with SDG&E. In regards to easements, SDG&E stated they try to negotiate with property owners for fair market value, but they can use eminent domain. They claimed to know nothing about the reduction of property values related to their projects. *This was an information only item. No action was taken.*

**5 B. GENERAL PLAN LAND USE ELEMENT DRAFT TECHNICAL REVIEW REVISIONS:** The goal of the draft revisions is to provide a framework to accommodate future development in an efficient and sustainable manner that is compatible with the character of the communities and the protection of valuable and

sensitive natural habitats. The 2 pages of comments drafted by the Chair were reviewed, one by one, with four suggested changes in language. *M/S: Parson / Polen: Submit comments with changes. Passed 4-0-0:*

**5 C. SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR PLACEMENT:** The proposed placement of two sexually violent predators in Jacumba, where Boulevard children also attend elementary school, was discussed. News articles and a statement from Supervisor Jacob were also reviewed. *M/S: Polen / Noland: Submit a letter echoing Supervisor Jacob's opposition to the local placement of SVP: Passed 4-0-0.*

## **6. UPDATES:**

**A. TRAIL SYSTEM FOR BOULEVARD:** More information may be available in August

**B. SUNRISE POWERLINK:** The Chair gave an update on the 400 plus crowd that attended the May 12 CPUC hearing in Borrego Springs. Having four commissioners at a hearing scheduled at this stage of the review process was unprecedented. There was discussion regarding speculation that the commissioners may be leaning towards approving a southern route alternative through our area.

**C. SEMPRA'S BAJA WIND APPLICATION FOR PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT FOR CROSS-BORDER 500KV LINE AT JACUMBA (DOE DOCKET NO. PP-334):** The Group agreed that the Chair and at least one other group member should attend meeting with two Sempra reps in Jacumba on June 12<sup>th</sup> to get details of the project.

**D. GOLDEN ACORN CASINO / HOTEL EXPANSION:** No news. Plans on hold.

**E. CAMPO LANDFILL:** Supplemental EIS is now expected to be released for public review this summer.

**G. MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN FOR EAST COUNTY:** The Chair reported that the last meeting was focused on MSCP impacts on farming, fireweed fuel management, wildfire impacts, preventative measures, impacts on habitat. East County is the most biologically diverse area in the nation with 180 listed species, down from 250 listed previously.

**H. BLM'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY:** The release of the Record of Decision is still pending.

**I. WIND ENERGY PROPOSAL FOR MCCAIN VALLEY:** PPM Energy, now known as Iberdrola, has a preliminary Plan of Development and is awaiting the Record of Decision on the BLM Resource Management Plan to move forward. They are reportedly working with property owners for an easement for the needed transmission line from their proposed project in McCain Valley south to the Boulevard Substation. It was agreed that the Chair and two other members of the group should accept invitation to meet with project rep.

**J. WEST-WIDE ENERGY CORRIDOR PROGRAMMATIC EIS:** The designation of energy corridors on federal land in our area, and other areas, has been legally challenged by numerous groups as being overly broad and improperly analyzed.

**K. LANSING COMPANIES:** No new information available on Greg Lansing's development plans on the 8,000 or so acres he has purchased locally, including Big Country and Empire Ranch.

**L. INVENERGY:** Brit Coupen, representing Invenergy, was present. When asked if he had any new information to share he stated no, they will share information when they are ready. When asked if Rich Volker was still working as a consultant for them, Coupen said it was not our business.

**Public Comment on non-agenda items:** Group member Chris Noland stated that he had scheduled a meeting with Supervisor Diane Jacob, Jim Bennett, and Environmental Health, to discuss concerns with radionuclides which have been found in some local wells. There is limited State money available for well testing. More funding may be available later in the year. A member of the Boulevard Fire Auxiliary announced the upcoming Pancake breakfast fund raiser.

Submitted June 20, 2008 by Donna Tisdale, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

